

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammer al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

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to cut
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Special Report

Libya's General People's Congress reviews development achievements and plans



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No 21 February 1982

□ **CONGRESS REPORT:** In early January the General People's Congress, the Libyan Jamahiriya's supreme legislature, convened in Tripoli. On the agenda was this year's multi-billion dollar development programme, which had been reviewed and debated throughout the country in the Basic People's Congresses before the people's opinions are presented at the General Congress. Alan George reviews the issues raised, and the speech given to Congress by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

□ **AFRICAN REPORT:** The first of a series of articles appears on pages 15/16 to mark the 1982 summit of the Organisation of African Unity, which will be held in Tripoli later this year. This month, we examine the Jamahiriya's role in Africa and the priorities and principles which guide its policies on the continent. Priorities, says the report, include a commitment to support national liberation movements, to rid the continent of foreign colonialist and imperialist influences, to support economic development, and foster unity and co-operation between African states.

□ **EUROPE AND THE JAMAHIRIYA:** Indirect pressures on European states from the United States are part of Washington's efforts to isolate and destabilise Libya's Al Fatah Revolution. On pages 13/14, Phil Kelly assesses the steps taken by America to undermine Libya's ties with Italy and Spain. Meanwhile the Libyan People's Bureau in London has acted to refute allegations made against Libya by the BBC and Lord Paget. A review of the Bureau's response appears on page 17.

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A monthly summary of news and events from the Libyan Jamahiriya, the Arab homeland and the Third World

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Urgent tasks for the Arab nation

THE UNITED Nations Security Council's efforts to formulate a resolution in response to the Zionists' annexation of the Syrian territories on the Golan has been a total fiasco. It adds powerful weight to the review of Arab relations with the United States, voiced by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi when he addressed the Jamahiriya's General People's Congress in early January.

Apart from underlining the continuing absurdity that certain members of the Security Council should have a right to veto a resolution, Washington's declared intention to exercise that veto, to block any resolution which included sanctions against Israel, can leave no doubt that the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation can only be halted if the Arabs adopt an equally unequivocal and committed stand towards Washington.

Qadhafi drew attention to those Arab leaders who openly assist the US to continue its Middle East strategy of support for the Zionists and forcing the Arab nation into a submissive role. Arab policies must be based on Arab rights and Arab interests. These are not necessarily in conflict with the interests of the American people. But Arab policies which are tailored to suit American interests, as they are perceived by the militarists in Washington, are a serious betrayal of the Arab nation.

Washington's policies in the Middle East are based on a narrow, western vision of Arab aspirations, coupled with the United States' imperialist goals in the region. Washington does not take into account the views of progressive Arabs; it merely hears what it wants to hear from its Arab allies in the corridors of power. It is time that Washington realised that stability and security in the region can not be secured on a fantasy assessment, and that the submissive approach voiced in some Arab quarters is not a real expression of the Arab nation's will.

If the American role in the Zionist scheme against the Arabs is in doubt, the Arab Americans, as Qadhafi calls them, should look at the extent of aid to the Zionist state. The American people would do well to examine the figures also. Washington's public criticism of Israel's annexation of the Golan is pure hypocrisy. The declared intention to veto the Security Council resolution proves that. And so too does US aid to Israel.

It was reported on 31st December that the Pentagon plans increasing arms credits to Israel to \$1.7 billion for the next fiscal year, 1983. This represents a \$300 million boost over what Israel received for the past two years. While the American people face Reagan's swingeing cuts in welfare services, and mounting unemployment as a result of his economic policies, the Zionists get a boost in aid.

And what are the Zionists expecting to secure with this aid? According to the *Washington Post* on 31st December, Israel is expecting to purchase four KC-135 tanker aircraft for refuelling the F-15s and F-16s 'to give them longer range'. This 'longer range' has ominous signs for the future, when it is recalled that the new aid package was framed, as the *Washington Post* points out, 'after Israeli planes destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor on 7th June, and bombed a civilian area of Beirut on 17th July.'

Total US aid to Israel is even greater than the figure mentioned above. Equivalent to one-half of Israel's national income, the *Christian Science Monitor* on 29th December put US public aid over the last three years at an average of \$3 billion annually. The paper pointed out that US military

equipment is provided at 'no cash cost', and that US military 'sales' to Israel constitute two-thirds of America's total official aid.

While arms and military technology are poured into the Zionist state by the United States to maintain the occupation of Arab lands, and the persecution of the Palestinian people, while Israel blatantly breaks all forms of civilisation and morality through military aids such as those against Lebanon and Iraq last year, Washington manoeuvres to lure the Arabs to make peace with Israel.

The Arabs are urged to make peace while Israel wages unrelenting war against the Arabs with the arms supplied by the United States.

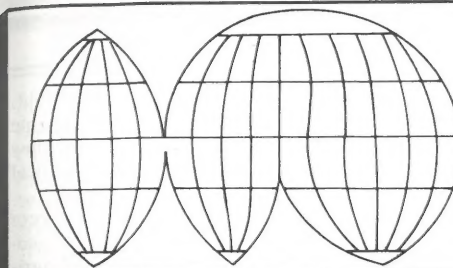
Camp David laid the foundations for Arab submission to the Zionists. It was possible only because Sadat betrayed the trust put in him as Egypt's leader. Let there be no dispute about the fact that the Camp David accords made it possible for Israel's attack on Iraq and Beirut last year. Had Egypt been firmly in the Arab ranks, Israel would not have dared provoke a major war, which each of these events justified. The peace treaty between Israel and Egypt resulted in 100,000 Egyptian troops being moved from confrontation with the Zionists to postings along Egypt's north to attack the Lebanon and ruthlessly suppress the Palestinians living under Zionist military occupation.

Washington is now preparing a scheme to consolidate Camp David into a broader basis for peace between the Arab nation and the Zionists. Informed sources say the new US plan calls for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan, territories seized in 1967. But it is a fake withdrawal, because Israel will be permitted 'to maintain advanced military outposts on both the Golan Heights and the West Bank', Jack Anderson reports in the *Washington Post* last 4th December. At the same time, there would be 'a large-scale integration of Israel into US defence plans in the Middle East', continued Zionist occupation of Arab Jerusalem, and full relations between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

The US scheme is totally outrageous. This is not purely an Arab issue. It should anger every human being who rejects colonialism, and the discrimination on which the Zionist system is based. It is a scheme which legitimises military aggression; it would legitimise the 1948 occupation of Palestine and the 1967 Zionist expansion. It would give the Zionists a victory which they have long been denied. It is a scheme which no Arab regime should support, and which no Arab regime should be asked to support. To propose such a solution to the Arabs is a latter-day version of European settlers in North America offering cheap coloured glass beads to the American Indians.

Yet Israel may well refuse to accept these token concessions to the Arabs which Washington is expected to propose.

The Zionist annexation of the Golan, and the international response to it, have serious and far-reaching implications. The annexation of the Golan is merely a test; Israel wants to see the international reaction to this outrageous act. On the agenda for 1982 will be the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. That the Zionists are free to contemplate such actions is a reflection of the failure of the Arab nation and the international community to deal effectively with the Zionist threat. When such Zionist plans are openly discussed in the American press, the pertinence of Muammer Qadhafi's tireless efforts to unite and mobilise Arab ranks becomes very clear.



PANDORAMA

news review

Qadhafi invited to visit West Germany

IT HAS been announced in Bonn that the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi has been invited to visit West Germany later this year. Although there has been no official statement issued in Tripoli, the invitation, extended by the German-Arab Association for Friendship, was announced by a leading figure in the group, Herr Juergan Moellemann, who is foreign policy spokesman for the Free Democratic Party (FDP), the junior partner in the coalition government headed by the Social Democrats (SDP).

Observers in Bonn believe that the invitation has been extended with the support of the FDP's leader, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Better West German trade relations with the Libyan Jamahiriya are seen as one of the hopes of the West Germans, while Herr Moellemann has reportedly said that West Germany could act as a mediator between Libya and the United States, since it has good relations with both.

The invitation to the Libyan leader is bound to add further strains on European-US relations. Europe has repeatedly refused to support Washington's efforts to isolate Libya and impose economic and trade sanctions against the Jamahiriya.

At the same time that Secretary of State Haig was pressing NATO states to back Washington, and was accusing Libya of 'international terrorism', France made clear its rejection of these charges by announcing that diplomatic relations between Paris and Tripoli would be upgraded. The reason cited by Foreign Minister Chevysson was that 'the attitude of the Libyan government is no longer one of external destabilisation'.

Call to boycott the US

A CALL for a boycott of the United States has come from the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress which ended in Tripoli on 19th January. The APC called on Arabs to boycott US products, ships, airlines, cars, companies and banks. It accused



the US of being the biggest enemy of the Arabs, supplying Israel with weapons, money and men to occupy more Arab land and to annex the Golan Heights. Arab governments should be urged to enforce such a boycott, said the APC.

The APC cited America's use of Arab oil revenues to build military bases in Sinai, the Gulf, the Red Sea, Bahrain, Oman, Sudan and Somalia as further reason for the boycott.

Israel linked to Red Brigades

ISRAEL HAS been accused of a plot to destabilise Italy. According to sources in Rome, the scheme has the ultimate aim of Israel replacing Italy as the United States' main Mediterranean base. Although the charge came from a responsible Italian official, it did not make any space in British newspapers, with the exception of *The Guardian*, which placed it on an inside page.

The charge of Israeli complicity with the Red Brigades came from Judge Ferdinando Imposimato, the magistrate in charge of investigating 48 members of the terrorist organisation allegedly involved in the kidnapping and slaying of the former Italian President, Aldo Moro.

According to a report in *The*

Guardian published in London on 18th January, the Rome magistrate said in his summing up of the investigation that 'the Israeli secret service has supplied the Red Brigades with arms, money and information'. The Israeli plan, Imposimato said, 'sought to bring about a civil war here, so that the United States would be forced to turn to Israel as a base for the security of the Mediterranean'.

The Guardian also reported an alleged plot by the Red Brigades to storm a televised meeting of the Christian Democrats National Council, and to assassinate its 80 members.

Although US propaganda has accused Libya of supporting the Red Brigades, the Jamahiriya's view was expressed by Muammer Qadhafi in March last year, when he saw the Red Brigades, like the Baader-Meinhof group as 'purely terrorists', which Libya did not support. At the time of the Aldo Moro kidnapping, and before his assassination had been revealed, Qadhafi made a personal public appeal to the Red Brigades to release the former Italian President.

Last December Israel was revealed as one of the sources leaking allegations about a Libyan hit team claimed to be planning the assassination of President Reagan. The FBI subsequently made public that no evidence of such a plan or of a hit team had ever existed. The

Los Angeles Times quoted 'informed sources' that the information about the supposed hit squads came from Israel's Mossad, and that it was part of a disinformation campaign to push the US closer to a confrontation with Libya.

The London-based *8 Days* magazine reported on 26th December, in a despatch from Washington, 'Observers' concern at possible covert Israeli pressure towards an invasion of Libya by Egypt is enhanced by persistent rumours of 'Israeli moles' in the administration and the CIA.'

Algeria hears the case for unity

'THE ISSUE of Arab unity' was high on the agenda during talks between the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi and Algeria's President Shadli Benjedid when the two met in Algiers on 19th January, according to Tripoli radio.

It was the first foreign visit by the Libyan leader since the Zionists' annexation of the Syrian Golan territory, and Qadhafi disclosed to newsmen in the Algerian capital that he was urging Syria's President Assad to counter the Israeli-American alliance by creating a 'strategic co-operation with the Soviet Union'.

► Speaking at the airport on his arrival, Muammar Qadhafi said the time had come for practical measures towards the unity and liberation of the Arab nation and 'to inflict a decisive defeat on the enemies'.

The Arab unity movement received a boost in early January with the announcement that the two Yemens are to merge into a United Yemeni Republic, following a referendum of the peoples of the two countries to ratify the recently agreed joint constitution.

San'a, now the north Yemeni capital, has been declared the new seat of government by a joint council of two entities. Islam will be the official religion, and it is planned that the unified state will have an elected parliament.

Democratic Yemen in the south has close ties with the USSR. It is also a member of the Steadfastness Front of Arab countries opposed to surrendering Palestine to the Zionists. Moreover, it is a member of the alliance formed last year with Libya and Ethiopia. North Yemen has traditionally been aligned with Saudi Arabia and the West, although it receives military assistance from both superpowers. The 9th January announcement of unity is the latest in a series of efforts over many years to secure union between the two countries, which have been thwarted by external influences which oppose union of the two states. Both are classified by the UN as being amongst the 31 poorest states in the world.

Hit team versus big brother

LONG BEFORE the media campaign accusing Libya of threatening the life of President Reagan finally collapsed into a total shambles for the State Department, with the admission from the FBI that, contrary to Reagan's own television declarations, no evidence ever existed as to a Libyan 'hit squad' being present in the US, the American journal *The Nation* accused the US press of being 'shamelessly manipulated'.

The liberal weekly on 19th December said the press was playing up the scare 'while Reagan diverts attention from his real problems at home by turning up the volume on his broken record entitled "International Terrorism" featuring the Haig-Weinberger Chorus.'

The journal continued, 'The press's role in this darkly-lit melodrama of offstage noises is troubling. It has bannered the "leaks" that the White House now claims to deplore. It has been shamelessly manipulated by what-

ever "intelligence" sources have a stake in promoting this show. Almost nowhere is the obvious connection made to Reagan's December 4 executive order allowing domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency. The Libyan caper prepares the way for the return of Big Brother by seeming to justify it.'

The Nation concluded: 'This is a nervous, fidgety Administration, anxious to justify repressive measures at home and adventurism abroad. In doing so, it repeatedly calls attention to its weakness and unreliability. The great Libyan plot neatly fits that pattern.'

12,000 dead in El Salvador

THE AMERICAN backed regime in El Salvador killed at least 12,500 people in 1981, pushing the death toll in 36 months of civil warfare to 30,000, a Catholic human rights group reported in late January. 'The horror has continued,' said Legal Aid, a human rights archivist run by the San Salvador Archdiocese, in a year-end report on El Salvador.

The 1981 toll included only murders, and not those killed in combat between government

troops and revolutionary and progressive forces.

The report said, 'The armed forces were responsible for 7,527 executions, and paramilitary bands for 4,974 executions in 1981. The grave responsibility for executions of the defenceless population falls fundamentally on the Salvadoran armed forces and the paramilitary bands.'

Bishop Battazzi, Italian President of Pax Christi International, meanwhile told a press conference in Brussels on 20th January, that the people of El Salvador and Guatemala were victims of 'a deliberate policy of genocide'.

Recognition of Islam's potential urged

A CALL for Islamic countries to strengthen their co-operation came from the Secretary of the People's Committee of Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, Mr Abdulati Ubeidi, when he addressed the Economic, Cultural and Social Committee of the Islamic Conference's Organisation in Tripoli on 18th January.

Delegates from Kuwait, Bangladesh, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Paki-

stan and Turkey, were told, 'Islamic countries are capable of becoming great powers if they use all their economic, political and social resources properly.'

Before the committee were reports on Islamic economic co-operation, food security and agricultural development, labour and skills, and financing of development projects in Islamic countries.

Referring to the potential of the Islamic community to emerge as a major world power, Mr Ubeidi told the committee, 'The Islamic world, which is currently moving on the path imposed by the great powers, can only gain political equality and the respect of these powers if it uses all available human and agricultural resources properly.'

On the same day the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was guest of honour at the prize-giving at a week-long international Koranic recital contest in the Libyan capital. Some 130 competitors from 36 Arab and African countries, together with some non-Muslim countries, took part. One of the winners came from Yugoslavia.

In a speech Qadhafi said that the Koran was the true basis for Libya's constitution, which was not the case in some other Islamic countries. He pointed out that under Islam all authority lies with the people, but Islam was still being exploited by governments and rulers who imposed their will on the people.

It was disclosed by Mr Mustafa Kashash, Secretary of the Adjudication Committee that the Jamahiriya has 500 Koranic schools, teaching more than 60,000 students.

CIA men take up positions

THREE senior CIA agents are now based in Morocco. Their task is covert operations against the Libyan Jamahiriya, together with co-ordination of US schemes with American backed insurgent movements elsewhere in Africa. At the same time, the US is activating an increased arms flow to Morocco in a bid to stem the successes of the Polisario liberation forces in the Western Saharan territories occupied by Morocco.

Washington's decision to break diplomatic ties with Libya has, ironically, created problems for the CIA, which no longer has the diplomatic facilities in Tripoli from which to operate. Moreover, in July 1981, the CIA chief in Algiers, Norman Descouteaux, was exposed by the Algerian authorities and expelled.

The CIA has now based its regional headquarters in Morocco, and a recent issue of the Washing-

ton publication *Covert Action Information Bulletin* names three CIA agents now operating from the kingdom. According to Claudia Wright, reporting in the *New Statesman* on 31st December, 'The latest, Joseph Pettinelli, arrived last February. David Wilson and Arthur Nimer Jnr were spotted in Casablanca and Rabat two years ago; both are known to have had prior experience of Qadhafi's Libya.'

The Washington based journal adds, 'There is little doubt that the increased CIA activity in Morocco is aimed at Qadhafi, the other major target being Angola.' Last March Jonas Savimbi of UNITA held talks with US General Walters and two CIA agents from Rabat.

Working for the CIA?

ALLEGATIONS THAT former CIA agents have been working for the Libyan Jamahiriya are seen in Tripoli as further unfounded charges by Washington aimed at discrediting revolutionary Libya. The propaganda campaign against Libya has distracted attention from the activities of other former CIA men and the politically related work they undertake with foreign countries.

8 Days magazine on 26th December noted that the CIA's former deputy director, Vernon Walters, returned to Morocco as a 'defence advisor' and earned \$300,000 there before becoming Reagan's chief in Saudi Arabia. Ray Close, as a partner of Kamal Adnan, former director of Saudi intelligence, and Daniel Arnold, former station chief in Bangkok as a consultant to US firms doing business with Thailand. Herbert Natzke, once station chief in the Philippines, now works for the Tan banking and commercial empire in Manila, while former CIA director Richard Helms, later US ambassador to Tehran, heads Safeer, a business consultancy which specialised in Iranian affairs before the Revolution.

France defies Reagan and arms Nicaragua

DESPITE STRONG American opposition, France is to supply military aid to the revolutionary Sandinista Government of Nicaragua. The French Foreign Ministry confirmed on 7th January that under an agreement signed in December, Paris will sell the central American state two missile-launching patrol boats, lorries and two Alouette heli-



Popular militias guard the Revolution in Nicaragua against threats from the United States. See report below.

copters, together worth about \$17 million. In addition, about ten sailors and airmen will be trained in France. Significantly, the pilots will train on French Mirage fighters, suggesting that sales of the advance plane are being considered.

The arms sale to Nicaragua was a slap in the face of the Reagan administration, which seeks to portray Nicaragua as a centre for 'communist subversion' in the central American region. Washington has cut off all assistance to Nicaragua, and has pressured other western countries to follow suit.

France has a better grasp of the realities. In a statement issued on 7th January, the French Foreign Ministry said, in an obvious reference to US policy, that 'regional conflicts are too often considered the expression of the East-West conflict, and this often leaves developing countries with no choice in their arms supply'.

On 8th January, during a visit to Washington, French Defence Minister Hernu rejected US criticisms of the Nicaraguan arms deal, and stressed that the Sandinista Government did not wish to become dependent on the Soviet Union and Cuba. Before leaving Paris, he said that when a country turned to France for military assistance, it generally meant that it wished to escape from dependence on one or other of the super-powers.

Washington's dangerously ill-informed policies in central America were highlighted on 15th January when it was announced that President Reagan has named Mr Anthony Quainton as the new US ambassador to Nicaragua. Mr Quainton has wide experience in Asia and Africa, but none at all in Latin America. It appears that he was picked for the job because for the past three years he has been director of the State Department's Office for Combating Terrorism. His job included the

dissemination of disinformation aimed at destabilising progressive countries in the Third World.

A further example of Washington's aggressive posture came on 19th January when the *International Herald Tribune* disclosed that the US is allowing rightist Nicaraguans to undergo military training in camps in California and Florida. The Manama Government has complained that this is contrary to the US Neutrality Act of 1794, which forbids the country's use as a base for military operations against any nation that is at peace with the US. The *International Herald Tribune* quoted Thomas Enders, an Assistant Secretary of State, as justifying the training by saying that the rightists were not breaking the law so long as they 'don't hurt anybody and as long as they don't actually conspire to invade in a specific way'.

Greek politician apologises

MR EVANGELOS Averoff, the Greek conservative opposition leader who was Defence Minister until his New Democrat Party was defeated in last October's general election, has publicly apologised for suggesting that Libya was an uncivilised country.

In early January Mr Averoff had accused Andreas Papan-dreu's socialist Pasok Government of staffing the diplomatic service with party members who had no relevant experience. He had said, 'This measure has no precedence in any other country, apart from Libya', and added: 'If it were a positive measure some civilised countries would have applied it for their own diplomatic needs.'

The statement prompted an angry response from the Jamahiriya's diplomatic mission in Athens, and on 10th January Mr

Averoff published an open letter in which he stressed that he did in fact consider Libya to be civilised.

The Pasok Government has radically realigned Greek foreign policy, loosening the country's former close ties with Washington. An important sign of the change was last December's official visit to Athens by PLO leader Yasser Arafat, during which Greece formally recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Only 48 hours after Mr Arafat's departure, however, the Greek ambassador to the United Nations, acting in direct contravention of his country's policy, abstained in a vote concerning the extradition from the US to Israel of Ziad Abu Eian, a Palestinian from the West Bank accused by the Zionists of involvement in resistance operations. *The Irish Times* reported on 13th January that shortly after the vote, a Greek Government spokesman telephoned Arab ambassadors in Athens to apologise for the abstention. The paper quoted a Government official as having explained: 'Our people were told for so long to vote in line with the Americans, no matter what, that they have trouble remembering that Greece now has its own foreign policy.'

Zionists fail in Gaza

ISRAEL HAS admitted that resistance operations in the occupied Gaza Strip region of Palestine rose sharply last year, and that attempts to find collaborators amongst the local population have failed.

Reporting on the fourteenth year of the occupation, Brig-Gen Yosef Lunz, who heads the occupation forces in Gaza, said that



Americans protest Washington genocide in El Salvador during a rally last summer. See report above.

► Palestinian resistance operations last year had 'reached dimensions we have not witnessed for many years'. On 14th January Israel radio also quoted him as saying that the last six months had seen a particularly sharp rise in operations.

The military governor also admitted the failure of efforts to find collaborators to help the Zionists implement the scheme for Palestinian 'autonomy' called for by the US-sponsored Camp David accords. He said that the call to local Palestinians to take part in the autonomy plot had been a 'voice in the wilderness'.

There is every sign that Palestinian resistance operations will continue their increase. On 11th January commandos struck at two targets in the areas seized by the Zionists in 1948. Bombs planted in a military depot in Petah Tiqva, near Tel Aviv, wounded several Israeli army personnel, and caused extensive material damage. Voice of Palestine radio reported. In the Palestinian coastal town of Ashqelon, guerrillas destroyed an Israeli army lorry. The blast caused severe damage to adjacent buildings.

Arab homeland base for RDF?

THERE ARE strong signs that the United States is seeking to set up an advance headquarters in the Arab region for its Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). RDF commander Lt-Gen Robert Kingston announced on 17th December that negotiations were under way with 'several Middle Eastern governments' for a regional base for his force.

The disclosure severely embarrassed the Reagan administration, which swiftly repudiated Lt-Gen Kingston's remarks. 'At this time no negotiations are under way, and we do not expect there to be any,' a State Department spokesman asserted on 18th December, adding: 'There may ultimately be a headquarters at sea.' In fact, Lt-Gen Kingston had explicitly stated his opposition to a seaborne headquarters.

The RDF's mission is to move quickly into the Arab homeland, ostensibly to protect the oil fields from any 'Soviet threat', but in fact to shore-up regimes allied with Washington against their own people.

ANC anniversary marked

SWEDEN HAS marked the seventieth anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) by announcing that it will this year give \$4.1 million to help the movement's struggle for the liberation of South Africa from apartheid. The donation was announced by Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten on 7th January, following a meeting in the Zambian capital Lusaka with three members of the ANC executive committee.

The ANC's anniversary fell on 8th January, and prompted messages of support from many progressive countries. Mozambique radio noted that the liberation movement had already achieved major political and military victories, and was fully capable of attaining its goals. The radio added that ANC military operations against the Pretoria regime had increased by 200 per cent over the past year.

Call for Comoros unity

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has reaffirmed its commitment to the unity of the Comoros Islands, in the Indian Ocean. In a joint communiqué issued on 14th January at the end of a visit to Tripoli by Comoros President Ahmad Abdullah Abdelrahman, Libya pledged itself to work for the return to the Comoros of the island of Mayotte, in accordance with resolutions of the UN, the OAU, the Islamic Conference and the Non-aligned Movement.

The Comoros Islands declared their independence from France in 1975, but Mayotte remained

a French colony. The island is the site of a major French military base, to which the US is reportedly negotiating for access.

At the end of President Abdelrahman's visit to the Jamahiriya, during which the two countries signed an economic, cultural and scientific co-operation agreement, Muammer Qadhafi accepted an invitation to visit the Comoros Islands.

US spy station in Africa

THE UNITED States is to establish a spy station in the Swaziland capital Mbabane, Johannesburg radio announced on 13th January. The new station, described as the first of its kind in southern Africa, will be in the American embassy, and its function will be to monitor radio and television broadcasts and the press in progressive countries in the region, and to intercept the communications of liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa.

Support for Poland's plight

LIBYA IS giving its backing to the Polish Military Council in its efforts to resolve the country's economic crisis, and has declared that foreign powers have no right to interfere in Poland's internal affairs. Evidence of the Jamahiriya's support for the Council came on 20th January when the two countries signed an agreement for economic and technical co-operation in Tripoli during a visit to the Jamahiriya by General Hopaviski, a member of Poland's Military Council.

The Polish leader's meetings with Libya's Heavy Industry Secretary Mr Omar Muntassir suggests that the Jamahiriya will look for ways to help Poland's economic crisis through the development of trade between the two countries.

On the same day Yugoslavia's

Federal Defence Secretary, General Nikolai Ljubicic arrived in Libya at the Muaytica airbase. The event further underlines the Jamahiriya's role in seeking to strengthen the movement of non-aligned nations, of which Libya and Yugoslavia are prominent members.

Oil sector will be defended

AGAINST THE background of continuing threats from the United States of a military invasion of the Libyan Jamahiriya's oil fields, steps are to be taken to ensure the defence of the vital installations through urban militarisation.

Addressing the final session of a meeting of oil sector secretaries in people's committees in Tripoli on 20th January, Major Khweildi Hamidi, the Commander of Urban Militarisation, stressed the need for popular defence of the country's oil industry.

This marks the latest move in the Jamahiriya's efforts to replace traditional standing armed forces with popular militias based on a countrywide mobilisation of Libyan citizens.

Major Hamidi said, 'We must be keen to militarise the oil sector employees in order to guarantee the people's freedom, democracy and dignity. Our concern for the rise of the armed people, whereby everybody will bear arms, is not out of fear of the people but fear for them, particularly in the face of American challenges and their efforts to crush progressive revolutionary forces.'

1964 student martyrs remembered

THE KILLING in 1964 of protesters against the regime of King Idris has been commemorated by a series of major rallies staged throughout the Libyan Jamahiriya.

The 1964 protests lasted for two days, and a number of students were killed when the regime's security forces opened fire at the unarmed demonstrators. The protests were a landmark in the Libyan people's struggle to oust the corrupt monarchy, which culminated in 1969, when the Free Unionist Officers, led by Muammer Qadhafi, overthrew the regime.

The climax of the anniversary ceremonies came on 14th January with a giant rally in Tripoli's 7th October Square. The day before, students had marked the anniversary by staging major demonstrations in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sebha, Misrata and Kufra.



Muammer Qadhafi sets Arab priorities

'THERE CANNOT be friendship between America and any Arab government except at the expense of the Arab people,' declared Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi in his 5th January address to the General People's Congress. Ties between Israel and America were so close that the two were virtually indistinguishable, he said during a speech devoted mainly to foreign policy issues. Reaffirming the Jamahiriya's solidarity with the people of Chad, he said that for the present, Libya took a neutral view of events in its southern neighbour. However, if Chad's renewed civil war threatened the Jamahiriya's security, Libya might be forced to reconsider its stance.

Muammer Qadhafi dealt in some detail with the divisions in the Arab homeland highlighted by differences over Palestine. Frictions have become particularly bitter since November's Fez summit, which broke up in disarray over a Saudi Arabian proposal that implied the recognition of Israel within its 1967 frontiers. Declaring that 'There must be unity of Arab action against the common enemy or nothing', the Libyan leader dismissed plans for a revived Fez summit as 'a deception'. Congress was told that only a real change of attitude by the pro-American Arab states could bring a joint Arab position on the Palestine conflict. While the Jamahiriya did not reject Arab summit meetings in principle, such a meeting now 'would not in itself solve anything'.

After the conclusion in November of the strategic co-operation agreement between the US and Israel, 'America is

THE 1982 session of the General People's Congress ended with a wide-ranging speech by revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi, in which he insisted that a common Arab stance on Palestine would be impossible without a radical change in western orientated Arab countries. His review of domestic issues focused on the agricultural sector.

now Israel, and Israel is America', and 'Any Arab who recognises America in fact co-operates with Israel against the Arabs'. Friendship between an Arab government and America could only be at the expense of the Arab nation, declared Muammer Qadhafi. 'I do not believe in attending any summit or the convening of any summit conference as long as the pro-American Arab states remain unchanged,' he stressed.

Restating the Jamahiriya's principled and uncompromising stance on the Palestine question, Qadhafi rejected outright any recognition of Israel in exchange for a Zionist evacuation of the 1967 occupied territories. It would be illogical, he pointed out, for the Arabs to pretend that the areas seized by the Zionists in 1948 were

any different from those invaded in 1967. To recognise Israel now would imply that the Arab and Palestinian struggle against the Zionists, dating from the nineteenth century, had been wrong from the start.

Israel, Colonel Qadhafi said, was an aggressive and expansionist state, and it was nonsense for the Arabs to believe that co-existence was possible. 'Israel's existence conflicts with the presence of the Arab nation. Either we stay or Israel stays,' he declared.

Libya would oppose any government that followed the path of former Egyptian ruler Anwar Sadat and recognised Israel, Colonel Qadhafi affirmed, and Egypt's was no exception. If President Mubarak persisted in recognising the Zionist state, Libya would oppose his policies as actively as it had those of his predecessor. 'This truce we are having with them (the new Egyptian government) does not mean that Sadat's death solved anything,' stressed Muammer Qadhafi. 'We are giving them the chance to sever their link with the enemy'.

Syrian unity

Colonel Qadhafi reaffirmed the Jamahiriya's commitment to unity with Syria, which had first been proposed in September 1980 in his speech on the eleventh anniversary of the Al Fateh Revolution. The Libyan people's congresses have recommended a complete merger between the two countries' political and military systems, and Colonel Qadhafi revealed that during talks with Syrian President Assad agreement in



These two Angolan farmers were tortured and had their hands cut off by US backed UNITA terrorists as part of Washington's campaign to overthrow the Angolan government.

principle had been reached on such a move. There was no need, however, for Syria to adopt immediately the same system of direct democracy as that established by the Libyan people. 'Unity between Syria and Libya is possible without the National Assembly in Syria being abrogated to become a people's congress, without legislative powers. The point is, when we meet, can we reach a common position?' he declared. If the Libyan and Syrian peoples were able to agree common policies, unity would in fact have been achieved.

In the short term, the creation of a single state embracing the whole Arab homeland was impracticable, and the Arab countries' immediate aim should be to forge a common stance. But the overriding long-term priority remained the establishment of full Arab unity; this was the only way of restoring the nation's morale and mobilising its full strength against the threats to its independence from Israel and the US.

'The Arabs are 150 million strong; their material resources are vast', said Qadhafi. 'The path is unity. Not unity of rank, or unity at a summit conference, but constitutional unity which creates one people out of two, and one country out of two.'

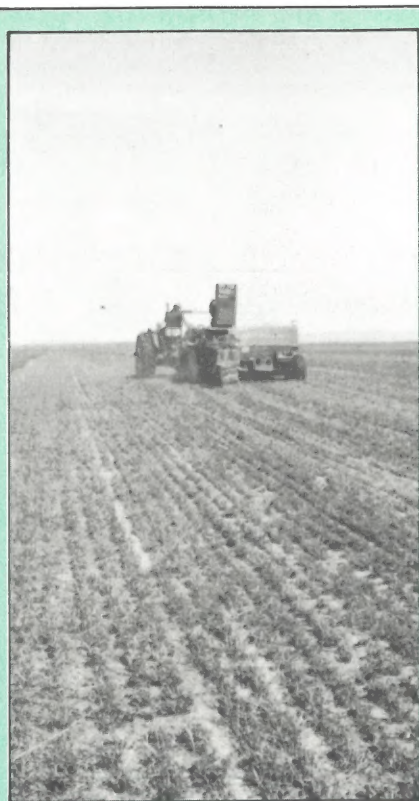
Muammar Qadhafi disclosed to the General People's Congress that he had submitted a programme for the unification of Syria, Libya and Algeria, in response to a proposal from Libya's Basic People's Congresses. It would, however, be a union of policies rather than a merger or federation, and the different political systems in each country would pose no problems.

'There is nothing contradictory between the arrangements now in existence in Algeria, Libya and Syria, and Arab unity among these countries,' he declared, adding: 'All administrative and political arrangements inside Algeria, inside Syria and inside Libya could remain within the jurisdiction of each country.'

Colonel Qadhafi said he was strongly opposed to the three countries joining in a federation. The important thing, he said was that they should adopt common policies. 'Unity is not achieved by establishing federal structures,' he declared, adding that it was such structures that had in fact led to the failure of earlier attempts at Arab unity. 'People's and governmental institutions in the other countries could meet with the Libyan people's institutions and adopt a common stance,' he said, declaring: 'This realises Arab unity.'

Chad deceived

Turning to Chad, the Libyan leader backed the decision of the Jamahiriya's people's congresses to supply economic aid, provided that the N'Djamena government respected its treaties and agreements with Libya. 'If Chad does not violate these, the Libyan people are committed to standing by the Chad people,' he said.



Profiteering by farmers must end

LIBYAN FARMERS are not pulling their weight in the Jamahiriya's programme of economic development, Muammar Qadhafi told the General People's Congress. Farmers, he said, had benefitted more than most from the Al Fateh Revolution, but continued private ownership of agricultural land had resulted in a selfish pre-occupation with personal profit. Farmers were selling their produce at far more than cost price, said the Libyan leader, and were thereby exploiting the rest of society. In effect, they had developed into a social class — in what was supposed to be a classless society — with a monopoly on food production.

No one had the right to exploit others, Muammar Qadhafi continued, yet in addition to exploiting society as a whole, farmers were also exploiting individuals. They persisted in hiring foreign workers, despite the Revolution's abolition of wage labour. He recalled that a key dictum of his Green Book, which sets out the basic principles of the Revolution, was: 'Partners not wage workers.'

The Libyan leader criticised the resolutions of the General People's Congress on agriculture, saying that they indicated a poor grasp of the problems. The Green Book stipulates that agricultural land is the common property of all Libyans, but the abolition of private ownership has yet to be implemented. Muammar Qadhafi hinted strongly that the time had come to act on the Green Book's dicta.

Following the departure of Libyan troops from Chad last November, the situation there had deteriorated badly, said Muammar Qadhafi. The peacekeeping forces sent by African states had proved ineffective, and the rebels of former defence minister Hissan Habre, backed by the Numeiri regime in Sudan, were advancing rapidly. 'The morale of the African forces is very low, their capabilities are weak and they are not prepared to fight,' said Colonel Qadhafi. 'Their presence means nothing.'

He went on to point out that the world had now woken up to the fact that Chad had enjoyed relative calm only because of the presence there of the Jamahiriya's peace-keeping forces, which he termed 'a safety valve'. As soon as Libyan troops were withdrawn, he continued, the civil war had started up again in Chad. The outlook now was grave, the Libyan leader warned. Habre's forces had seized the town of Abeche, capital of the eastern region, and had established it as a strategic base for an advance on N'Djamena.

The Chad government of President Oueddei had become the victim of the European and African states that had persuaded it to request the withdrawal of Libyan troops, said Qadhafi. These countries had deceived President Oueddei by convincing him that an evacuation of Libyan forces would bring peace to Chad.

For the present, Colonel Qadhafi said, Libya was strictly neutral on Chad's internal affairs, but the Jamahiriya was alert to any threats to its own security along its southern border. 'We shall see what the African forces are going to do, what France will do, and what the African states are going to do,' he said. 'We want stability in central Africa,' he added, 'because the security of Chad is linked with the security of Libya.' The Libyan leader concluded: 'We cannot ignore what goes on along our borders. That is a perennial issue for us.'

Muammar Qadhafi warmly welcomed the Ghanaian Revolution led by Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings, whom he described as 'our friend, a believer in the Third International Theory, and in people's power'. The new revolutionary administration deserved the Jamahiriya's full support, he said.

Colonel Qadhafi concluded his address with a tribute to the Sudanese people, who are currently engaged in a bitter struggle against the US-backed regime of Ja'afar Numeiri. The Sudanese ruler had failed to act on the wishes of the Sudanese people, and had tied him to the Camp David accords, said the Libyan leader. The country had enormous economic potential, but development had been thwarted by the regime's policies. The days of the Khartoum regime were numbered, and the imprisonment of thousands of its opponents would not save it from being swept aside. 'We salute the Sudanese people, and offer them our full support,' Muammar Qadhafi declared.

Congress urges economies to beat world oil glut

EACH JANUARY the General People's Congress meets to fix the annual development budget and to decide the country's policies for the coming year. This special report examines the discussions and resolutions of the 1982 meeting of the Libyan legislature.

ECONOMIC and social development was the main focus of attention during January's seventh ordinary session of the General People's Congress (GPC), the Libyan legislature. Meeting in Tripoli from 2nd-7th January, Libya's trades unions and 173 Basic People's Congresses discussed a series of reports from the Jamahiriya's Secretaries (the equivalent of Ministers in traditional administrations), and reached decisions that will form the basis of policies for the coming year.

Major outcomes of the GPC were calls for wide-ranging economies to counter the impact of reduced oil revenues, and demands for a more efficient civil service and a more effective system of marketing agricultural produce. The GPC also took decisions aimed at improving technical training in the Jamahiriya, in line with the emphasis in the 1981-85 development plan on the need for Libyans to acquire technical skills and so reduce the country's dependence on foreign workers.

Oil

Reviewing the difficult conditions in the international oil market last year, Petroleum Secretary Abdel Salam Zaager told the GPC that a number of major oil producing states had deliberately increased output at the behest of the United States. The aim had been to create a world oil glut, and thereby to make it difficult for progressive countries to sell their higher-priced oil. 'The conspiracy has created an oil glut of 3.5 million barrels of oil per day worldwide, and another 3.5 millions that are the result of stock-



1982 budget set at \$8.8 billion

THE GENERAL People's Congress, mindful of the need for economies, has set this year's development budget at LD 2.6 billion (\$8.8 billion) — five per cent lower than last year's figure.

Almost all the sectoral allocations are lower than in 1981, but communications and marine transport was a notable exception, its allocation being increased by LD 49 million (\$165.5 million).

Sectoral allocations were:

Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform: LD 347m
Heavy Industry: LD 493
Oil and Gas Exploration: LD 40
Electricity: LD 190m
Maintenance: LD 157m
Information and Culture: LD 20m
Health: LD 82m
Social Security: LD 15m
Housing: LD 230m
Installation: LD 215m

Communications and Marine Transport: LD 355m
Economy: LD 140m
Planning: LD 10m

The breakdown of the 1982 budget allocations by sector reflects the priorities of the Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan. The \$62.5 billion plan, unveiled at the January 1981 meeting of the GPC, gives pride of place to industry, with an outlay of LD 2.9 billion (\$13.3 billion) — 21 per cent of total investment. Agriculture takes second place with planned investment set at LD 3.1 billion (\$10.5 billion). The key aim of the 1981-85 plan is to diversify the Libyan economy. When presenting the 1982 development budget to the GPC for approval, Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa stressed that the Jamahiriya was still far too dependent on oil revenues.

piling,' he declared. The Jamahiriya's oil sales had fallen during 1981, but the country was determined to overcome the resulting financial problems by 'cutting costs and expenses'. The need for economies was evident in a succession of resolutions adopted by the GPC on other sectors of the economy, and was strongly reflected in the 1982 development budget (see inset box).

Agriculture

Agricultural development was the subject of a lengthy debate, with discussion focussing on the difficulties encountered in marketing produce. The General Secretary of the Farmers' Union pointed to a number of shortcomings of the Jama-

hiriya's General Marketing Company, which is responsible for distribution in Libya. The Company had failed to provide key services, such as transport, he said. Sometimes it refused to accept farmers' produce. There was no adequate quality control. He called on the General Marketing Company to pay farmers immediately on receipt of their goods.

Last year's abolition of private control over retail trade was one of the key moves in the establishment of socialist economic relations in Libya. Private shops have been replaced by people's supermarkets, where citizens can buy at virtually cost price the full range of goods previously sold by private merchants. The General Marketing Company was set up to

manage the countrywide network of people's markets.

On livestock marketing, the Farmer's Union called for subsidies on locally produced meat to be raised, and those on imported meat to be lowered. Such measures, said the Union, were essential if Libyan meat production was to be increased. The Union also called on the Agrarian Reform Secretariat to allow the public sector National Company for Livestock and Meat to buy up all sub-standard livestock, and to guarantee the purchase of a quarter of all camels and goats, for which demand in Libya is limited.

In reply, Mr Bashir Jawda, Secretary of Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, acknowledged that there were problems over marketing, but that these were not unique to the Jamahiriya. They were characteristic of all developing countries, he said. Despite the problems, Libya's production record was better than in many countries; cereal production had risen from 75,000 tonnes in 1975 to 150,000 tonnes in 1980; meat output had increased in the same period from 44,000 tonnes to 66,000 tonnes; 661 million tonnes of vegetables were produced in 1980, compared with 564 million tonnes in 1975; egg output had risen from 178 million to 386 million; milk production had reached 114 million litres in 1980, compared with 87 million litres in 1975.

Mr Jawda reported that while the Jamahiriya last year imported 2.6 million head of sheep and cattle, domestic output had reached five million head, of which about half a million had been slaughtered. He added that agreement had already been reached for public companies to buy all Libyan agricultural produce.

Suggesting that many of the farmers' grievances stemmed from short-term dislocation caused by the recent abolition of private control over the retail trade, Economy Secretary Zaid Omar Durda told the GPC that the recently-formed General Agricultural Company was pressing ahead fast with plans to improve marketing. Buying and collection depots had been established in such regional centres as Tripoli, Tajoura and Aziziyeh. So far, he added, the company had set up 456 distribution depots throughout the Jamahiriya.

The GPC resolved:

- to institute a study of privately-owned farms, with special attention given to their failure to adhere to agricultural directives. The study would lead to a possible re-organisation of agricultural land ownership (see inset: *Profiteering by farmers must end*).
- to initiate a study of agricultural marketing directed at improving the efficiency of the distribution system.
- to launch a major study of the Jamahiriya's water resources, and to issue a law on water use.
- to issue a law aimed at pasture and forest conservation.
- to issue a law on agricultural inspection.

Fund for families of Chad martyrs

THE GENERAL People's Congress has resolved that every Libyan citizen will contribute LD 5 (about \$17) to support the families of members of the armed forces who had died during last year's operation to end the Chad civil war.

At a parade in Sebha by the returned peacekeeping forces on 28th November, revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi disclosed that 300 Libyan soldiers had been killed in Chad.

Health

In a wide-ranging report to the GPC, Health Secretary Murad Ali Lanqi stressed that the Jamahiriya's programme of health care depended on an adequate supply of skilled workers. The 1981-85 programme called for 6,000 doctors, dentists, pharmacists and qualified medical technicians, he said. At present, 2,389 skilled medical personnel were working in the country's health services, representing 38.5 per cent of the plan's total needs. The Health Secretary added that the 1981-95 health programme also called for 23,000 medical auxiliaries, of whom 6,839 — 29.7 per cent of the total — had already been trained.

Mr Ali Lanqi stressed the centrality of basic health services, preventive medicine and of environmental health programmes in the Jamahiriya's overall health care system. He added that one of his Secretariat's major goals was to encourage the attendance of Libyan citizens at their local clinics. To this end, the Secretariat was issuing health record cards to Libyan citizens, and was moving to strengthen the role of the family doctors who service the local clinics.

A major change proposed by the Health Secretary was the abolition of free pre-

scriptions for out-patients at hospitals. The Jamahiriya's generous welfare system, he said, had led to a major increase in the consumption of medicines, to the point where they were sometimes being used when not really necessary. He recommended that outpatients should in future pay a token charge for medicines, a move that would save the country LD 15 million per year of the total of LD 20 million currently spent on medicines.

The GPC resolved:

- to approve the token charge for outpatients' prescriptions.
- to place new emphasis on improving the quality of services at existing health care establishments. The construction of new facilities would be given a lower priority.

Education

Education Secretary Abdel Hafez az Zulaytini reported that the total number of students of all types of educational establishment in the Jamahiriya had risen to 1,089,953, and added that new facilities currently under construction contained 11,200 classrooms.

The GPC resolved:

- to speed up the development of an educational system that more closely matched the country's needs. A key change would be the encouragement of earlier specialisation, and the phasing-out of general secondary schools. These would be replaced by specialised training institutes, with courses linked to those of the universities.
- to step up the development of post-tary training at educational establishments.
- to speed up the development of post-graduate education.
- to end scholarships for study overseas, except for instruction that is not available in Libya.

Civil service

The report of Civil Service Secretary Muhammad Abdullah al Mabrouk centred on foreign workers in the Jamahiriya. Noting that the 1981-85 plan provided for expatriate workers to increase to 368,000 by the middle of the decade, he pointed out that their number already totalled 623,000 (of whom 106,000 were unskilled). This level of reliance on foreign workers was at variance with the declared objectives of the Jamahiriya to develop the skills of its citizens, thereby freeing the country from excessive dependence on foreign workers.

The GPC resolved:

- to limit the use of non-Libyan workers, particularly in the civil service.
- to step up efforts to reduce the size of the civil service, and to channel workers towards directly productive jobs.
- to increase administrative efficiency by making greater use of computerised data systems in the civil service.



Left: General Haig obsessed with Europe's rejection of Washington's destabilisation scheme against the Libyan Jamahiriya.

US pressure over Libya irritates Europe

STRAINS IN the western alliance have become more evident over the past two months, as the Reagan administration has tried to force western nations to fall in line with its aggressive policies towards the Libyan Jamahiriya. Phil Kelly looks at America's arm-twisting, and assesses its effects.

THE IMPATIENCE with which the hard-liners in Reagan's administration view their critics in Europe is no longer concealed. Viewers of Independent Television on 12th January were startled to see American Secretary of State General Alexander Haig become most incoherent with rage when questioned by a journalist about America's support for right-wing dictatorships such as those in Chile and El Salvador. Did this not indicate double standards on the part of the United States when America attacked the Soviet Union over repression in eastern Europe, Mr Haig was asked.

The Secretary of State exploded at his questioner. 'That question is typical of the double standards which can be seen in the West,' he snapped. Too much time was spent in the West in criticising what he referred to as 'our system of values', Mr Haig said.

Stumbling over his words, he demanded that there should no longer be comparisons drawn between 'western freedoms' and 'totalitarian dictatorships' — a phrase describing only countries of which America disapproves.

The failure of communication between America and Europe, at least at the level of political ideas, has never been so open. It is not at all clear to most Europeans — even those of centre or rightwing views — that Europe shares any values in common with General Pinochet or the El Salvador junta. Nor is it clear why the term dictatorship should only be applied to all countries of which America disapproves, regardless of the real political situation in each country.

During its first year in office, the Reagan administration has been busy on a campaign to curb those countries which refuse to accede to its wishes, and in particular those countries which seek an economic system intended for the benefit of the people of that country rather than that of US multinationals. The Haig administration is genuinely convinced that all opposition to the interests of US multinationals is produced and directed by the USSR.

Unfortunately for the Americans, the European conception of the world, differing though it does from country to country, is rather more complex and sophisticated. Europeans generally feel that all countries need to trade, regardless of the politics of their government; the Reagan administration insists that trade must take second place to the execution of US foreign policy. The resentment of Americans ordered home from well-paid and useful tasks in Libya's industrial and agricultural development projects is an indication that feelings against Reagan among America's business community, though currently muted, will without doubt be more openly expressed in coming months. For the time being, it is the Europeans who express feelings held by numerous Americans.

Italy

Not surprisingly, it is Italy which has taken the brunt of US moves against Libya. Italy is Libya's most important European trading partner; in the first six months of 1981, Italy's exports to the Jamahiriya rose by 106.3 per cent to \$2.06 billion, and Libyan exports to Italy by 70.3 per cent. Libya provides 13 per cent of Italy's oil needs, but Italian firms are so involved in all aspects of the Jamahiriya's industrial development that there are an estimated 20,000 Italians working in Libya, the largest non-Arab foreign community. Relations with Italy — once the colonial power in Libya — have improved beyond all recognition since 1970, when the revolutionary authorities expelled the last remaining colonial settlers planted in Libya by Mussolini.

Italian politics is split on unexpected lines over policy towards the Arab homeland in general and the Libyan Jamahiriya in particular. On the one side are top Italian business leaders, including Fiat boss Giovanni Agnelli, and the head of the state-owned oil firm, ENI, Alberto Grandi, along with left wing politicians. On the other side are leaders of the Christian Democrats, traditionally the party of Italian business, and of the Socialists, whose leadership has traditionally been enthusiastically in support of America and NATO. Both parties' leaderships have received cash from the CIA in the past.

Weighing in on the side of the anti-Arab faction are Italy's military, who wield important behind-the-scenes power in a less-than-stable democracy, and who, like their counterparts in other NATO

countries, are closer to the US than to their civilian fellow citizens.

Relations between Libya and Italy looked set to improve at the start of 1981. Following a visit to Italy by Ahmed Shahati, then head of the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, the joint economic commission of the two countries who revived after a gap of two years. Arrangements were tentatively set in train for visits by Italian President Sandro Pertini to Libya, and by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to Italy.

Suddenly, in February, the then premier, Christian Democrat Arnaldo Forlani, claimed that Italian terrorists were being trained in Italy. His claims followed a summit meeting at which French President Giscard d'Estaing tried to persuade Italy to join in the French campaign against Libya over Chad. But Forlani coupled his attack on Libya with allegations that the PLO was also involved in Italian terrorism. This was clearly not prompted by the French, who accepted the need to involve the PLO in a solution to the problem of Palestine.

Forlani's allegations were a virtual repeat of remarks made a month earlier by General Alexander Haig during his confrontation hearings before the US Senate prior to becoming Reagan's Secretary of State.

That was probably because the Italians had been under pressure from Haig. Of the proposed Qadhafi visit, Claudia Wright noted in *The Middle East* magazine (August 1981), that it had been 'opposed by the new US Reagan administration. The Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig, and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, made strong efforts to block the visit at NATO meetings and in bilateral talks with Italy.'

The campaign, particularly against Italian business links with Libya, began to build up. The extension of Libyan financial links with Italy, particularly the increase in Libya's shareholding in Fiat, was denounced by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The Americans doubtless realised that Italian business could no longer be relied on to take the same line as the US — an unusual and unwelcome situation for Washington.

During April, a senior Libyan aide, Staff Major Abdul Salem Jalloud, made two visits to Rome, meeting on both occasions with Premier Forlani and other top officials. It was clear to observers that there were problems in Italy's relations with Libya. A government statement denied that there was any problem between Libya and Italy, though it spoke of a 'misunderstanding' which ought to be cleared up. In the event, although the economic commission carried on meeting, the reciprocal state visits which seemed so definite in January never took place.

The cancellation of Qadhafi's visit to Rome was clearly an Italian concession to the Americans. But Washington was not satisfied. It sought the total isolation of Libya from her European trading partners.

When western leaders met at Ottawa at the end of July, President Reagan insisted on a special closed encounter with Italy's new premier, Giovanni Spadolini, and told him in blunt terms that Italy's close relationship with Libya was contrary to the policies of the Reagan administration, which was seeking to isolate Libya.

But Spadolini made it clear that whatever his own personal feelings were, Italian industry needed the Libyan market, and to cut trade links would amount to economic suicide for Italy's hard pressed economy.

In the wake of the incident in the Gulf of Sirte in August, when US fighters from the aircraft carrier *Nimitz* shot down two Libyan jets in the Jamahiriya's airspace, Muammar Qadhafi warned European nations like Italy which accommodated the US Mediterranean fleet that Libya would retaliate against US bases if an attack on Libya, unprovoked like the Sirte attack, were to be launched from European soil.



Weinberger and NATO Secretary General Carrington co-ordinate plans against the Jamahiriya.

America's friends in the Italian government carried on the feud with Libya in flat contradiction of the wishes of their colleagues for improved relationships. The military's man, Defence Minister Lelio Lagorio, who agreed to the siting of American Cruise missiles in Sicily, attacked Libya in September, making the familiar claim that Libya was 'interested in a radical destabilisation of the area where Italy's interests lie.'

In the same month, Italian fighters intercepted two Libyan Arab Airlines flights which they claimed had strayed into Italian airspace without permission. Yet the joint economic commission continued meeting; Libyan Industry Secretary Omar Muntassir visited Rome in October, and signed a number of contracts. The postponed Qadhafi visit was again under discussion. Italian firms continue to win massive development contracts. Italy continues to walk a tight-rope in its links with the Jamahiriya, but has not yet stumbled.

Spain

Similar US pressure has been put on Spain. The bargaining counter which the Ameri-

cans have to offer is membership of NATO, a political aim of all centre and right-wing Spanish politicians. Spain's views on the Middle East are somewhat at variance with those of the US, it has never recognised Israel. It enjoys close links with the Arab world, and the Arab influence on the country's history and culture is strong. But the US has naval and air bases in Spain, and great influence on the country's military.

The weekly *8 Days* said in October that 'there is intense pressure from Washington on Spain to allow these bases to be used for the Rapid Deployment Force for the stockpiling of US equipment'. A Spanish official told *8 Days* that Spain would not allow this.

One of the major thrusts of US pressure on Spain is directed towards ending the boycott of Israel. Opposition Socialist Party sources say that the growing military links between the two countries, including Israel's re-fitting of Spain's US-built but rather elderly Sherman tanks, 'followed consultation with the US'.

The United States does not particularly want Spain to end its relationships with the Arab world. Rather, it hopes that Spanish links, particularly with conservative Arab countries, can be used as another channel for pushing US views and policies. Spain also has close links with its own ex-colonies in Africa and Latin America, where the Americans hope that it could be useful to them.

Spain's bilateral military treaty with the US, which is the legal basis for the US military presence in the country, has expired. Ostensibly, it is not to be renewed because of Spain's application to NATO. But the absence of the treaty also gives Spain a little more room for manoeuvre. It is clear that the Spanish government does not share the bellicose US stance towards Libya. Not a word came from Madrid during the Gulf of Sirte incident, even though Spain does not accept Libya's designation of the Gulf as its 'historic waters'.

'The entire Maghreb has deep Spanish connections, and Spain is not keen to see these damaged by rising tensions in the Mediterranean,' a Spanish Foreign Ministry official told *8 Days*.

Relationships between Spain and Libya are good. Heavy industry Secretary Omar Muntassir visited the country in December, and held talks with Spanish officials and industrialists. He assured the Spanish government that Libya, which supplies 82 per cent of Spain's natural gas, would continue to supply gas and oil even during periods of energy crisis. Despite this, the US is clearly hoping that Spanish membership of NATO will increase its influence in that country at the expense of the Arabs in general and Libya in particular.

□ The examination of US pressure on Europe will be continued next month, covering the position of France, Ireland, Sweden, West Germany and the UK.



Development to improve living standards is a common goal.

Libya and Africa: Common problems cement co-operation

IN JULY, the Organisation of African Unity will meet in the Libyan Jamahiriya. It is a most appropriate venue for the OAU, which represents a co-operative effort to assert the interests of Africa and its people against those of the super-powers and former colonial countries. Themes of self-sufficiency and independence, which are a vital part of the Libyan revolution, underlie the philosophy of the OAU, and Libya has been one of its most prominent members. Phil Kelly looks at Libya's role in Africa.

ECONOMIC AID and support for liberation movements are the twin pillars of Libya's policy towards Third World countries in general and its fellow African states in particular. Both strategies are directed to the same goal: assisting Africa to become self-sufficient and towards breaking the ties which fetter its countries to the economies of the developed nations.

Libya's critics in the West describe the encouragement of economic self-sufficiency as 'threatening western interests'. But the multinational companies and their subsidiaries which operate in Africa do not serve the interests of the ordinary people in western countries. They are owned by a tiny minority, who also dominate the political systems of the West. The interests of this elite are not the same as those of ordinary people, and any challenge to the enormous political and exploitative role of the multinationals has never been motivated by hostility to the peoples of the Western nations.

Libyan policies also have their critics in Africa. In 1981, when Libyan troops went to the assistance of the Chad government of Goukouni Oueddei, at its request, the first objections came from the French, who regarded Chad as part of their sphere of influence in Africa. But the chorus was taken up by the rulers of some African countries.

Nigerian President Shehu Shagari for example, rejected the right of the Chad government to invite Libyan troops to defend itself against foreign-backed rebels, and declared 'Goukouni had no right to invite the Libyans because he was merely head of a transitional government.' Shagari's comments, made during an official visit to Sudan, were used in the West to further the impression that 'Africans' opposed Libyan military assistance to Chad.

Shagari is not a puppet ruler like Numeiri. Shagari won an election for President in October 1979, and has since been received by the Queen in London and by western political leaders. But Nigeria's 'democracy' is only superficial. The political system is explicitly modelled on that of the United States, which encourages expensive election campaigns by political personalities using the media and discourages the participation of ordinary people in solving their own problems. Bribery is also a big problem, with multinational firms said to offer officials commissions of up to 50 per cent in order to secure deals.

Economic progress has also widened the gap between poor and rich Nigerians. The north of the country has its own problems, and these have been exacerbated in recent years. In December 1980, the Nigerian Army slaughtered between five and eight thousand people in a little-reported incident in the city of Kano. The few reports which did reach the western media largely dismissed the incident as a firm response to rioting by 'Islamic fundamentalists'.

Those who died were 'young and dispossessed' followers of a self-proclaimed 'Mahdi' or Islamic teacher, according to the *International Herald Tribune* on 9th February 1981. 'In fact the group could hardly be regarded as Muslims,' says Dr Mohammed Zaharaddine, Head of Islamic Studies at Bayero University, Kano. *The Observer* reported on 15th February last.

It is beyond doubt that a whole district of Kano was flattened by the Army, and that reporters found eyewitnesses who were able to describe how police and troops systematically beat to death or shot hundreds of prisoners. 'The Assistant Commissioner of Police explained . . . the fanatics had cleverly chosen an area of the city where it was difficult to attack them without killing innocent people,' *The Observer* said. The fact that the self-proclaimed 'Mahdi' was able to attract the support of so many young people indicates the desperation which poverty has brought to Nigerians, and the impossibility of such grievances being righted within the present system.

Yet because the man who heads the system is prepared to allow foreign companies the freedom to operate as they wish in his country, the West regards him as a spokesman for Africa. Throughout the continent, the opponents of Libyan aid and of Libyan policies in general are to be found among the rich; the supporters of Libya are to be found among the poor, the workers and peasants.

Political support

Libya supports liberation movements and political movements which oppose foreign domination of Africa. But such support is given on the recipients' terms. Muammar Qadhafi recently made this quite clear to interviewer Peter Gill, of British Independent Television, in the programme *TV Eye* on 10th December last year. 'Certainly we will support the opposition to any government which is a puppet of the West. But at the same time, it must be understood that we do not oppose such governments directly. We support the opposition to them. Just as the colonialists support governments which are loyal to them, so we support popular movements against such governments,' the Libyan leader explained.

The allegation that Libya arms extremist groups was dismissed as 'silly' by Colonel Qadhafi. He pointed out that Libya arms and trains only recognised liberation movements, first and foremost the PLO, but also from Africa. 'We trained armed forces from Zimbabwe. We train Angolan forces and forces from Namibia. These are just causes. These are people fighting for freedom. This training is public knowledge and we broadcast news of it every day.'

The political links between Africans and Arabs have been strengthened because of the axis between the major enemies of the two peoples — South Africa and Israel. The seizure of Sinai, Arab land which was

Aid geared to promoting economic independence

LIBYA'S MAIN form of economic aid for Africa is in the form of joint companies, which have been established in numerous countries, covering varied areas of industrial and agricultural activity. There is a high degree of complementarity in these projects. Libya provides the capital, and the African countries provide the labour. One of Libya's main economic problems is the small size of its population; one of the gravest problems in most of the Third World is the scourge of unemployment.

In Guinea, for example, there is a Libyan-Guinean Agricultural Corporation, a joint Maritime Fishing Company, a joint Maritime Transport Company, an Iron and Steel Company, and the Guinean-Arab Alumina and Aluminium Company, which is involved in bauxite mining, and in which Guinea is partnered by Libya and six other Arab countries. Libya and Gabon have established a joint metal and timber company, and in Benin, there are joint companies for animal breeding and fishing. A joint agricultural enterprise has also been established with the Republic of the Congo. Other countries where Libya has established joint companies include Rwanda, the Malagasy Republic, Togo, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

Joint holding companies, with subsidiaries involved in various industrial and agricultural enterprises, have been established in Uganda and Burundi. Plans for a joint Libyan-Ghananian holding company, on which little progress was made under the government of President Limann, are expected to be reactivated by the new revolutionary administration of Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings.

Joint Libyan-African development banks are another method by which Libya channels capital into develop-

ment projects. In the case of the Libyan-Togolese Bank, half the capital of 10 million French francs was provided by Libya; the Jamahiriya also provided 51 per cent of the 250 million CFA francs capital of the Arab-Chadian Bank for External Trade and Development, and of the 60 million shillings capital of the Libyan Arab-Ugandan Foreign Trade and Development Bank. One third of the Libya-Niger Foreign Trade and Development Bank's \$2.2 million capital was provided by Libya.

The Libyan Arab Foreign Bank is the Libyan institution through which oil revenue is channelled to the various development banks and companies. Established ten years ago, it now has considerable expertise in banking and development finance. In 1981, Libya's non-banking investments were reorganised and placed under a new holding company, the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company.

As well as joint banks and development companies, Libya also provides loans for specific development projects, such as a \$50 million loan extended to Guinea Konkoure. The Jamahiriya is also an active participant in multilateral aid schemes, notably those of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Special Fund, and the UAE-Libyan Fund for African Development. All these institutions provide 'soft' loans, at low interest rates and with generous repayment periods, for infrastructural development projects.

Cultural projects

Libya has played a major role in supporting Islam in Africa. The Joint UAE-Libyan Commission for Islamic cultural centres opened its most recent Islamic centre in Rwanda in June last year, and plans are ready for other centres in Togo and Uganda. As well as a mosque, centres have schools, libraries, medical dispensaries and lecture halls. A centre is under construction in Bangui, capital of Gabon.

also part of Africa, by Israel in 1967 aroused African anger against the Zionists. Libya played a key role in channeling this anger into closer relationships between Arab and African states, and in disrupting Israeli subversion of African countries on behalf of the West.

The London magazine 8 Days summed up developments as follows in an article in September 1980: 'Until the early 1970s, the two groups tended to go their own ways. The dogged efforts of Libya's President Qadhafi helped build a new relationship. His campaign helped convince a number of African heads of state to rally behind the Palestinian cause and break diplomatic ties with Israel. Since then, oil-producing Arab countries have

sought to cement these links with economic aid and Afro-Arab dialogue.'

The strength of these links seems to have survived even the Camp David agreement. In the wake of this, and in the light of Israel's promised withdrawal from Sinai, the Zionists sought to re-establish links with several pro-western African regimes. But Zaire, regarded as the leading candidate for a renewal of diplomatic ties with the Zionist state, backed the Arab cause in the recent UN Security Council debate when Syria demanded sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the occupied Golan Heights.

During the struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, leaders of the two wings of the

liberation movement, ZANU and ZAPU, were regular visitors to Tripoli. Libya supported the Zimbabwean cause not only with arms, but also diplomatically, in the United Nations and other international forums. In particular, Libya urged on its fellow OPEC members, notably Venezuela and Iran under the Shah, the need to ensure that oil supplies to the racist regime of Ian Smith were ended.

The armed struggles of the Zimbabwean people led to the intervention of Britain and the United States and the organisation of free elections which resulted in an overwhelming victory for the nationalist parties, and the defeat of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who had sided with the Smith regime. Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr Ali Abdul Salem Treiki was among the honoured guests at Zimbabwe's independence celebrations, and immediately Joshua Nkomo made a special journey to Tripoli to express Zimbabwe's thanks for the Jamahiriya's role in the liberation struggle.

Zimbabwe Premier Robert Mugabe described Colonel Qadhafi as 'the true champion of Africa and a veritable freedom fighter against colonialism and reaction in the Arab world and Africa' in a speech of welcome to a Libyan delegation in July 1980. 'The Jamahiriya's people have given us financial and political aid in training the Zimbabwean people militarily. This aid had a big effect on the attainment of freedom from racism by the Zimbabwean people,' he added.

The victory by armed struggle in Zimbabwe was an example for the Arabs in the fight against Zionist racism, Muammer Qadhafi declared. 'Military action as in Zimbabwe, is the only step in the right direction' over Palestine, the Libyan leader commented.

Libya is now aiding Angola against attacks by South African military forces which have left hundreds dead in the past few months. In response to a request from Angola for aid after the South African invasion in August last year, Muammer Qadhafi was among the first of African leaders to offer such help. Once again, the parallel between Israel and South Africa was uppermost in the minds of Angolan and Libyan leaders alike. South Africa invaded Angola allegedly in pursuit of guerrillas of the South West African People's Organisation, just as Israel justifies its raid on Lebanon by claiming that they are directed against the Palestinian resistance. In fact, both countries have sought to inflict random destruction on the economies and infrastructures of their northern neighbours.

Israel is also involved in training the forces of the South Africans' protégé, Jonas Savimbi, whose UNITA terrorist group attack Angolan villages. The understanding that the fight against Israeli and South African racism is one and the same has brought Angola and Libya close together, and the ties were cemented by a joint solidarity conference in the Angolan capital, Luanda, in December.

ALLEGATIONS MADE in the House of Lords by Lord Paget in December that the Libyan Jamahiriya is involved in a campaign of international terrorism have been refuted by the Libyan People's Bureau in London in a letter sent to MPs and Lords.

And the Bureau does not conceal the fact that 'our efforts to refute the various allegations made against our country and our leader have been unsuccessful because the western media has apparently decided that the Libyan response shall not be published or given examination'.

The letter from the Libyan People's Bureau says, 'Faced with the difficulty created by this apparent embargo in the British press on Libya's replies to these allegations, we address our comments to you directly.'

The Bureau points out that Lord Paget's remarks concerning an alleged Libyan threat to President Reagan's life were subsequently dismissed by the FBI, which had admitted that no evidence of such a plot ever existed. However, the letter points to 'the timing of this allegation', which the Bureau stresses 'occurred in the weeks preceding the NATO meeting at which Secretary of State Haig was to seek the support of America's allies in enforcing a trade boycott against Libya and other measures aimed at disrupting or destabilising the Libyan economy.'

Other charges against the Jamahiriya, such as those concerning the American Ambassadors in Rome and Paris, the Bureau points out, have also proven to be baseless. In fact, despite reports in the press asserting a Libyan threat, the ambassador to Rome had been recalled to lobby for the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia, and the Italian Foreign Ministry had refuted unequivocally suggestions that his life had been threatened by Libyan gunmen; the attempt on the life of the ambassador in Paris, contrary to press reports, had proven subsequently to be the result of a personal dispute between US envoy and a Moroccan, against whom the ambassador is not pressing charges.

'When such allegations appear with such regularity, we can understand that western public opinion should become hostile towards the Libyan Jamahiriya,' says the Libyan Bureau. However, since the charges have been proven false, it is clear that 'Libya has been set-up by the Americans and the press'.

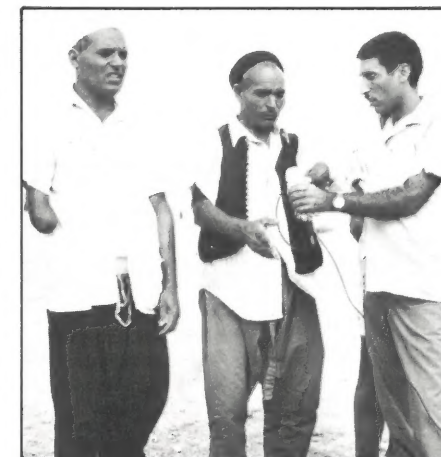
Turning to the charges that the Jamahiriya trains members of terrorist organisations in Europe, including the IRA, the Libyan People's Bureau says that 'legitimate liberation movements' such as those in Palestine, Namibia, and previously in Angola and Zimbabwe, should not be confused with terrorist organisations such as the Red Brigade and the Baader-Meinhof group. Libya does not support terrorist groups, and although it supports Irish unity, it does not support the use of terrorism by the Provisional IRA.

No evidence to support these alle-

British MPs told not to believe all they read in the press

FOLLOWING allegations against Libya made by Lord Paget and the BBC, the Libyan People's Bureau in London has replied in a letter sent to MPs and Members of the House of Lords. There is a world of difference between the facts and what the press reports. Lord Paget is wrong on every single point.

gations has been produced by Lord Paget, nor by the BBC's Panorama programme which had previously made the charges. The Libyan statement brands American allegations on this subject as 'absurd', and points to US training and support for



World War II mines and their victims: A genuine problem exploited by the BBC.

anti-government forces in Nicaragua, along with Washington's backing for UNITA forces in Angola, and US support for 'state terrorism' waged by the regimes in El Salvador, South Africa and Zionist occupied Palestine.

'Libya is one of the few countries, if not the only one, to have a law on its statute book making involvement in acts of terrorism a crime,' says the letter in reference to a law adopted last year by the General People's Congress. Moreover, Libya's call in 1981 for 'an international conference to establish a common international approach to the problem of terrorism', received 'no international backing, not even from the United States'.

On the allegations that former CIA agents have been recruited by Libyan agencies, and are involved in illegal operations connected with terrorism and subversion in foreign countries, the Bureau accuses the CIA of having 'set up certain of its agents in a deliberate campaign aimed at discrediting the Libyan Jamahiriya'.

The Libyan statement adds, 'It might be that they have secured access to certain documents which have been carefully edited to support malicious allegations that Libya is involved in terrorist activities. Panorama (the BBC programme) rested part of its case on correspondence and orders for explosives and timers which documentation said could be used for detonating unexploded bombs.'

The Bureau points out that the explanation, far from being a cover for more sinister intentions, is genuine. It is no secret that the existence of World War II mines and bombs on Libyan territory is a real problem, causing 'hundreds of accidents and many fatalities to Libyan citizens every year'. Libya, with the support of Britain and West Germany, is engaged in 'a country-wide campaign to clear up the remains of these deadly devices'.

Earlier the letter declares, 'We refute that any Libyan organisation is involved in the kind of illegal operations of which we are accused by the Panorama programme and Lord Paget.' Moreover, says the Bureau, 'It is absurd to suggest that CIA techniques are perfectly legitimate when carried out by the United States, but immoral and a threat to international security if they are used by another country. The BBC and Lord Paget would do the public a greater service if they were to put their energies into exposing the methods and techniques which are routine in CIA operations.'

The Bureau points out that the current anti-Libyan propaganda campaign is the result of the Jamahiriya's rejection of American schemes in the Arab homeland, which has prompted the US to attempt the destabilisation of Libya, a plan 'such as that inflicted on Allende's Chile'. The 'disinformation campaign' is a prelude to American military intervention in the Jamahiriya, says the Bureau.

Oil production up as Americans leave

IRAN HAS sent ten oil industry specialists to the Jamahiriya to study possible manpower problems arising from President Reagan's demand that US oil workers should leave the country. The team arrived on 1st January and was expected to stay on for about ten days. Mr Hossain Kheradmand, Iran's Deputy Oil Minister, has said that Tehran is ready to send as many as three hundred oil technicians, if they were needed. Algeria, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have offered similar assistance.

On 10th December Ronald Reagan banned US citizens from travelling to Libya, and called on those already there to leave. The move was in response to fictitious claims by American intelligence agencies that Libya had sent 'hit squads' to assassinate the President. Washington's hope was that the departure of Americans would cripple the Jamahiriya's oil industry, and the country's economy.

Only about 700 of the 1,500 US citizens working in Libya prior to Reagan's action were directly engaged in the oil sector, however. A further 200 worked for small oil service firms. The 600 others were dependants, teachers and employees of companies active in non-oil sectors of the economy. The Americans employed directly in oil exploitation comprised only seven per cent of the total of 10,000 people employed in the Libyan oil industry. Contrary to claims in the western media, Libyan officials have reported that only about 100 Americans have responded to Reagan's call to leave.

Washington has also sought to damage the Jamahiriya's economy by pressuring US oil companies to close down their operations in Libya. Only Exxon, which traded in Libya through its subsidiary Esso Sirte, has succumbed, and under an agreement signed on 23rd December the firm will sell its Libyan assets to the Jamahiriya's National Oil Corporation for slightly less than their book value. Esso Sirte's operations will be taken over by a new company, the Sirte Oil Company, which will also assume responsibility for all Esso Sirte's outstanding agreements with contractors and suppliers.

It seems likely that Reagan's precipitate move will in the long term rebound against the US. Libyan Oil Secretary Abdel Salam Zaagar has said that European oil companies and specialist staff would be welcome in the Jamahiriya. On 7th January the London weekly *Middle*



American oil workers ordered to leave, but oil production rises.

East Economic Digest quoted him as saying: 'The Americans have dominated our petroleum industry since its creation — in prospecting, drilling and supplying equipment. That will no longer be the case.'

Reagan's manoeuvres have in fact had no impact on Libya's oil production. Output in December rose to more than one million barrels per day, up from 600,000 barrels/day at the beginning of November.

Australian agricultural orders

AUSTRALIA'S CONNORSHEA & Company has sold 970 seed drills to the Jamahiriya, worth \$4.7 million, it was announced in January. The sale is believed to be the largest single order for agricultural equipment ever placed in Australia by an Arab country.

The seed drill order was a further sign of the steady growth of trade ties between the Jamahiriya and Australia. It was also disclosed in January that the Siba Australia company, an associate of the Italian concern Siba, has won a contract to supply 700,000 live sheep to help meet the growing demand for mutton in Libya. The West Australian firm sent its first shipment, of 34,111 sheep, on 22nd December, and a second was due for 15th January. The Jamahiriya's National Company for Livestock & Meat last year advertised in the Australian press for the supply of one million live sheep in 1982.

Rising personal incomes in the Libyan Jamahiriya have led to more varied diets, and in par-

ticular to a rapid growth in demand for high protein foods. Consumption of mutton, a traditional staple of the Libyan diet, has risen sharply, outstripping current local production. To meet the shortfall, Libya has turned to foreign suppliers.

Turkey has become another major source of live sheep. Ankara radio announced on 18th September that 60,000 sheep would be shipped from the port of Trabzon by the end of that month, and that a further 40,000 would be sent from Mersin. The radio added that Libya had placed orders for live sheep worth 1.5 billion Turkish Lira.

More hotel rooms in Tripoli

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus have signed an agreement providing for Cyprus to train 48 Libyan students in hotel management. The agreement was signed on 14th December by the Director General of the Cypriot Ministry of Labour and by the Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Nicosia.

Since the 1969 Revolution, Libya has deliberately shunned any major influx of western tourists, in view of their adverse cultural impact. Alcohol and a frenetic 'night life' are central to the holidays of Europeans in the Mediterranean, and such leisure activities conflict sharply with the Islamic principles on which the Al Fateh Revolution is founded. The rapid expansion of the Libyan economy in recent years, however, has attracted increasing numbers of businessmen to the country. Many other visitors have come as delegates

to the numerous conferences hosted by the Jamahiriya to underline its solidarity with progressive peoples throughout the world.

The country's existing local capacity has been unable to cope adequately with the surge of demand for accommodation, but a number of major hotel projects are now nearing completion. By the end of this year Tripoli alone will have more than 1,300 rooms in new hotels. The aim is to staff the new hotels with Libyans, so far as this is possible, in keeping with the Jamahiriya's determination to minimise its dependence on expatriate workers. The 1981-85 development plan puts special emphasis on the acquisition by Libyan citizens of the skills needed to run a modern economy.

Poultry farms boost food output

THE WEST German firm of Kathmann Gefluegelbetriebe has won two contracts to establish poultry farms in the Jamahiriya. It was disclosed in January. One of the awards, valued at nearly \$2 million, is for eleven farms, each with a capacity of 10,000 chickens. Their client is the Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform Secretariat, and completion is scheduled in the middle of the year.

The other contract, awarded by the Adgedebiyeh Municipality, south west of Benghazi, is worth more than \$2.3 million and is for a poultry farm near the town. The scheme will accommodate 15,000-20,000 laying hens, and the rearing house will hold 20,000 chick-



Libyan ports: Entry point for the Jamahiriya's massive imports; see 'New sea links' report below.

ens. Completion is also scheduled for the coming summer.

The Libyan Jamahiriya aims at food self-sufficiency by the end of the century. As a first step, the 1981-85 development plan calls for domestic output to be covering about 60 per cent of consumption by the middle of the decade, compared with the current figure of about 53 per cent. Highly intensive agro-industrial schemes, such as the new poultry projects, have been accorded a key role in the agricultural development strategy.

Kathmann Gefluegelbetriebe has already taken part in Libya's drive to establish a modern agricultural base. In autumn 1980 the firm won a contract to build 42 poultry farms, at a combined cost of about \$90 million.

New sea links will ease trade

ITALY'S MESSINA Line has started a new roll-on/roll-off container service from La Spezia to Misrata, Libya's third largest town. The new service started on 15th January, with sailings every fourteen days. The company already operates two long-established services from the north western Italian port of La Spezia to Tripoli and Benghazi, with sailings to Tripoli every two to three days, and to Benghazi twice per month. Cave Wood Transport of High Wycombe are the Italian firm's sole UK agents.

Libya's imports have risen sharply in recent years, in response to the needs of the country's development programme. In the early years after the 1969 Revolution, congestion at the ports of Tripoli and Benghazi was a major problem. To ease the flow of imports and to handle the growing exports of manufactured goods, Misrata's Qasr Ahmed port, at which the Messina Line's new service will call, was completed by a

Yugoslavian firm in 1978.

In addition to establishing new ports to handle freight, Libya is building a series of new fishing harbours to aid its drive for self-sufficiency in food by the turn of the century. The country's Marine Wealth Authority has awarded the Finnish firm Vesi-Pekka a \$16.8 million contract to build a fishing port at Zliten, 50 kilometres west of Misrata, it was disclosed in early January. For completion next year, the port will serve ten trawlers, ten tuna-fishing boats and about 20 other fishing vessels.

Power supply for capital is tested

INDIA'S STATE-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals has completed reliability and performance tests on two 120 MW unit extensions to the Tripoli West thermal power station, it was announced in January. Work on the two extensions to the 325 MW station began in 1976. The Indian firm will operate and maintain the plant for a two-year period.

Under Libya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan, fixed investment in the electric power sector is scheduled to increase at an average annual rate of 15.1 per cent. Spending on the sector during the plan period was set at LD 2 billion.

Europe to launch Arabstat

REPRESENTATIVES OF the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed a \$23 million agreement to launch the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation's (Arabsat) first satellite. The agreement, signed at Arabsat's Riyadh headquarters on 2nd December, provides for the satellite to be launched early in 1984 from the

ESA's centre in Kourou, French Guiana. The European Ariane rocket will put the satellite into stationary earth orbit above the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Arabsat was set up by the Arab League, with involvement by all its members states and with a capital of \$100 million. The Libyan Jamahiriya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait and Morocco are represented on its Board of Directors.

The satellite, being built by France's Aerospatiale with America's Ford Aerospace & Communications, is one of three ordered from the French firm by Arabsat last year at a cost of \$135 million. The aim is to provide a broadcasting channel and 10,000 telephone circuits for Arab League member states. Two of the satellites will be put into orbit, with the third being held as a spare. Negotiations for the second satellite, to be launched by the US Columbia space shuttle in mid-1984, are in their final stages, according to Arabsat Secretary-General Mr Ali al Mashat.

A questionmark hanging over Arabsat is the attitude of the Reagan administration to the involvement of Ford Aerospace in the venture. The US Arms Export Control Act requires sales of satellite technology to be subject to the type of export licence normally applicable to military sales. The US Congress can block such sales by majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The State Department notified Congress of the proposed sale of Ford Aerospace components on 30th October, but in the face of strong opposition, withdrew the proposal four days later. The opposition, from supporters of Israel, reportedly centred on the satellite's possible military implications, and on the involvement in Arabsat of the Libyan Jamahiriya, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Democratic Yemen. The State Department will re-submit the proposal at

an unspecified future date, and there are hopes that the deal will not be blocked. The Reagan administration apparently wants to avoid a repeat of the embarrassing furore that accompanied the recent sale of US AWACS early warning planes to Saudi Arabia.

An Aerospatiale spokesman was quoted in *Middle East Economic Digest* on 6th November as saying the company was confident that Congress would not forbid Ford Aerospace to go ahead with its part in the project. He stressed that the scheme was designed entirely for civilian purposes.

LAIFC shifts into high gear

THE LIBYAN Arab Foreign Investment Company (LAIFC), set up last year to handle all the Jamahiriya's overseas investments, has secured a \$250 million Eurodollar loan. The seven-year loan, carrying interest at 16 per cent, is guaranteed by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, and the main organiser was the Arab Banking Corporation, in which the Jamahiriya has a one-third stake. The final agreement was signed in Bahrain in late December.

LAIFC had originally sought only \$200 million, but the loan was so attractive to bankers that they oversubscribed, raising the figure by \$50 million. This particularly gratified LAIFC since the loan's main purpose was to test the Jamahiriya's international credit rating as the prelude for possible future borrowings in the European market.

Prior to LAIFC's formation, Libya's overseas aid and investment programme was managed by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, with much of the Jamahiriya's assistance being directed at the formation of joint companies. LAIFC clearly intends to follow this tradition. In December it was disclosed that LAIFC has formed a joint livestock development and fruit production company in Sri Lanka with the state's National Livestock Development Board. The new company's authorised capital is \$5 million, and LAIFC has put up 49 per cent of the firm's paid-up capital. The joint company's first project will be a poultry scheme, whose output is destined both for the local market and for export.

It has also been announced that LAIFC is to establish a joint shipping company with Turkey's DB Turkish Cargo Lines. The Libyan firm will have a 49 per cent stake in the new enterprise. Initially the new line will concentrate on freight, but there are longer-term plans for a passenger service between Turkey and the Jamahiriya.

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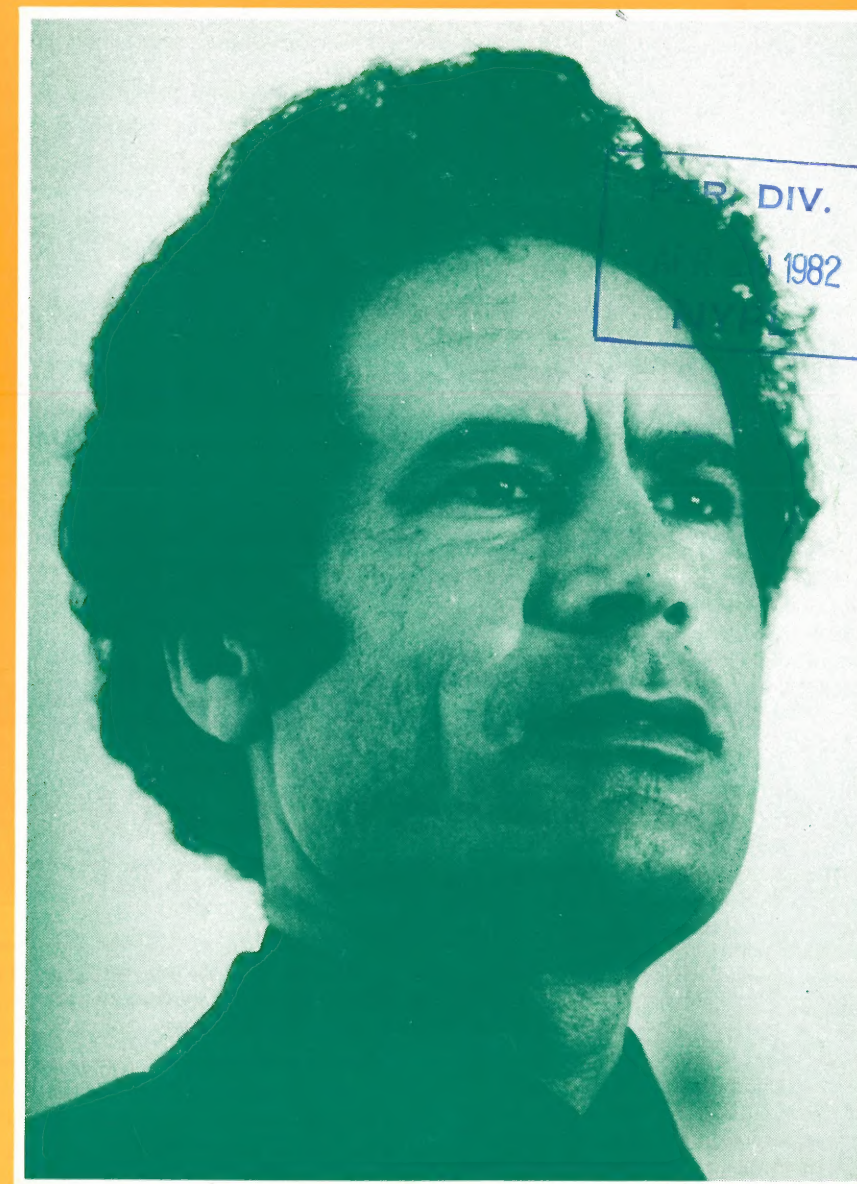
Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

STACK 3

jamahiriya review

March 1982

50p



Qadhafi's blueprint for Arab unity

British mission to Libya — See page 13

Africa:
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under
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